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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 072982-0182



In re patent application of:

Motofumi KAKIUCHI

Serial No.: 09/325,427

Filed: June 4, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2731

Examiner: Unassigned

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HIGH-CAPACITY ELECTRONIC SWITCHING

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a document known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of the listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, a certification or fee is required. Applicant provides a certification below in lieu of the fee. If either the first or second scenarios are not the case, such as in a third scenario in which either a final Office Action has been mailed out by the PTO or a notice of allowance has been mailed out by the PTO, then applicant petitions to have the instant IDS considered, and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary petition fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A3-A4 were cited in a Japanese Office Action that issued on July 4, 2000, by the Japanese Patent Office with respect to a counterpart application.

Document A3 relates to a distributed time-division channel system for electronic switching system. The Japanese Patent Office describes a device which can secure a

communication path between circuit blocks by securing a communications path within a circuit block when a problem occurs, or by connecting a circuit block to a network of dedicated lines while in that state.

Document A4 relates to a telecommunications switching system. The Japanese Patent Office describes a device which makes a connection between two exchange units when a central exchange device which is always connected to an exchange unit is unable to make a connection between two exchanges units.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

October 4, 2000
Date

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.
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